

THE VIRGIN MARY IN THE KINGDOM

Day 17 (P240)

The Virgin Mary leaves the Temple and espouses Saint Joseph.

All states in life are destined for holiness

"My mother, I love you; love me too. Increase in my soul the Will of God, and grant me your blessing also, so that I may do all my actions under your maternal gaze."

The soul to its Heavenly Mother:

Holy Mother, today more than ever I feel the desire to be held tightly in your motherly arms.

May the Divine Will which reigns in you form a sweet enchantment for my will and keep it enraptured, so that it dare not do anything to oppose the Will of God.

Your lesson of yesterday made me understand just what type of prison the human will casts the poor creature into, and I so much fear that my own will may make its little exists from the Divine Will and resume its place in me again.

Therefore I entrust myself to you, my mother, that you may carefully watch over me so that I may rest assured of always living in the Divine Will.

Lesson of the Queen of Heaven:

Be of good cheer, my child.

Have courage and trust in your mother with the iron-clad resolution never to give life to your will.

Oh, how I would love to hear from your lips,

"My mother, my will is finished, for the Divine Fiat has established in me its complete reign."

These are the weapons that make your own will continually die and win over the heart of your mother, who uses all her loving and maternal stratagems to have her child live in her Kingdom.

For you it will be a sweet death that gives you true life, and for me it will be the most beautiful victory I will have achieved in the Kingdom of the Divine Will.

Therefore, have courage and place your trust in me.

For distrust is of the cowardly, of those who are not really committed to obtaining victory, and of those who are never equipped with the proper weapons.

Indeed, without weapons one cannot obtain victory, but will remain always inconstant and vacillating in their effort to accomplish anything good.

Now, my child, listen closely to what your tender mother wishes to tell you.

I continued my life in the Temple while making my little flights up to my heavenly homeland.

I possessed the rightful claims of God's daughter to make my little visits to my Divine Family in heaven, which belonged to me more than the rightful claims of a father over his household on earth.

But I was so surprised when in one of these visits the Divine Persons revealed to me that it was their Will for me to leave the Temple – first, to unite myself in the bond of marriage according to the manner of those times to a holy man named Joseph, and second, to withdraw together with him and live in the house of Nazareth.

My child, at this stage in my life it was apparent that God wished to truly test my will.

For I had never loved anyone in the world;¹⁰³ since the Divine Will extended itself throughout my entire being, my human will never did so much as one act of its own.

¹⁰³**Here the Blessed Virgin Mary distinguishes *human love* from *divine love*, and the *human order* from the *divine order*.**

Is Mary perhaps disparaging human love or affirming that it is disordered?

Absolutely not; rather, she is emphasizing the primacy of divine love in all relations that co-exist with love of neighbour.

Indeed, Jesus reveals the two greatest and inseparable commandments:

Love God (divine love) with all your being and

**your neighbour (human love) as yourself (Mt. 26:36-40);
St. John reminds us that whoever says he loves God, but does not love his
neighbour is a liar (1 Jn. 4:20).**

**And Mary affirms as much when she states below,
“...had I acted under the guise of not wanting to know man and according to my
human will, I would have sent to ruin God’s plan of the coming of the Divine Word
to earth.”¹⁰³**

Thus the seed of human love was foreign to me.

How could I love a man in the human order, even if he was a great saint?

It is true that I love everyone, and that my love for all was so great that my motherly love kept all souls inscribed, one by one with indelible characters of fire, in my maternal heart, but all this was completely in the divine order.

Compared to divine love human love may be called a shadow, a pale reflection and a tiny atom of divine love.

So, my child, what seemed to be a test of my human will from God and what appeared foreign to my holiness of life, was admirably used by God to fulfil his designs and concede to me the grace for which I so much longed in order for the Word to descend to earth. ¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁴God availed himself of the bond of marriage to fulfil the Scriptures that foretold that Jesus would be born of the house of David - of the Israelite community. According to the Mosaic Law, only the husband (Joseph) could give the child his name and inscribe him into the register of the Israelite community, not the mother.

If Mary had no husband, Jesus could not have fulfilled the Scriptures in this regard. ¹⁰⁴

In Saint Joseph God provided me a safeguard to defend me before the community in light of my virgin birth and assist me, so that no one should speak against me concerning my integrity.

Saint Joseph was to be the co-operator and the guardian who would take care of what little there was of human need, and he was the reflection of God’s heavenly fatherhood under whom our little heavenly family on earth would be formed.

So, despite my surprise, I immediately said, “Fiat!” knowing that the Divine Will would neither disappoint me nor compromise my holiness.

Oh, had I acted under the guise of not wanting to know man and according to my human will, I would have sent to ruin God’s plan of the Divine Word coming to earth!

Therefore, it is not the diversity of states that compromises sanctity, but not doing the Divine Will and failing to fulfil one’s duties in the state to which God calls a soul.

All states in life are holy including marriage, provided that one does the Divine Will and faithfully fulfils the duties of their state in life. ¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁵Mary’s lesson on all states in life being holy is bolstered by St. Francis de Sales who states the following: “God commanded the plants at creation to bear fruit each according to its kind.

Similarly, he commanded Christians, the living plants of the Church, to produce the fruits of devotion according to each one’s ability and occupation.

Devotion is to be practiced differently by the workman, the servant, the ruler, the widow, the young girl and the wife.

Even more than this, the practice of devotion has to be adapted to the strength, life-situation and duties of each individual.

Do you think that it is suitable for a bishop to desire to live the life of a hermit like a Carthusian monk?

If people with a family were to want to be like the Capuchins not acquiring any property, if a workman spent a great deal of time in church, like the member of a religious order, and if a religious was always subject to being disturbed in all sorts

of ways for the service of his neighbour, like a bishop, would not such a devotion be ridiculous, disorderly and intolerable?"
(Introduction to the Devout Life, De Sales Resource Centre, NY, revised edition 2005, p. 46).¹⁰⁵

And yet, most souls are indolent and lazy, and not only do they not become saints, but they make of their own state in life either a purgatory or a hell.

So, as I learned that I was to leave the Temple, I did not say a word to anyone, but I waited for God himself to arrange the external circumstances in such a way that his adorable Will would be fulfilled, and this indeed happened.

The superiors of the Temple called me and let me know that it was their will, and also the custom of those times that I prepare myself for marriage.

I accepted.

Miraculously, among the many possible bridegrooms, the choice fell upon Saint Joseph.

Thus the marriage was made and I departed from the Temple.

So, I entreat you, child of my heart, if you wish God's divine designs to be accomplished in you, in all circumstances of life take to heart doing solely the Divine Will.

The soul:

Heavenly Queen, I, your child entrust myself to you.

With my trust I wish to wound your heart, and may this wound in your maternal heart say always:

"Fiat! Fiat! Fiat!" Such is your little child's incessant request.

Aspiration:

Today, to honour me, come onto my lap and recite fifteen *Gloria's* to thank God for all the graces He had granted me up until the fifteenth year of my life, and especially for having given me the company of so holy a man as Saint Joseph.

Exclamation:

Powerful Queen, grant me the weapons to wage war against my own will, so that I may allow myself to be won over by the Will of God.